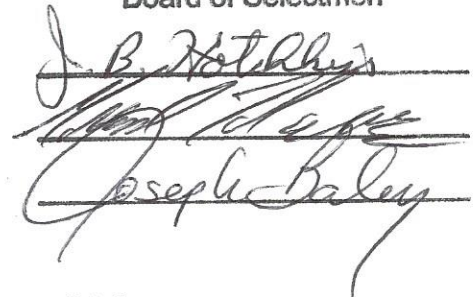


Town of Middleton
Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 7, 2016

Approved By
Board of Selectmen



Called to order at 6:00 P.M

BOS Members Present: J. Bailey, J. Hotchkiss,

Pledge Recited

Signature Action:

- New Police Chief Bill Blodgett was sworn in as Middleton's new Chief.
- J. Bailey motions to accept the minutes from the BOS 10/24/16 meeting as written. J Hotchkiss seconds, all in favor.
- Land sale paperwork signed to complete the sale of three town lots that were sold. Fox Road, Lakeshore Drive and Horn Brook Road. J. Hotchkiss mentions how selling these town owned lots is not to make a lot of money but to get these properties back on the tax roll.

Old Business

- Tomorrows Election- J. Hotchkiss speaks about the new state law that states that both workers and voters cannot wear any election material while in the voting area. Moderator is aware and his main goal is for all to vote. Possibly provide a coat/poncho if any clothing needs to be covered. There are also observers who can come and observe but also cannot wear any election material. J. Hotchkiss will be available all day at the elections. J. Bailey will start the day and end the day and M. Schwarz will fill in the middle of the day. Expecting a very large turn-out for this election.
- J. Hotchkiss asked Fire Chief Lawrence if he could provide lighting for the walkway at the Highway Garage by 4:00 PM. He will provide a stand light to be used.
- J. Hotchkiss spoke about the new set tax rate. He is aware that there are some resident concerns. He is willing to write a letter to explain the breakdown. One resident in the audience would like that breakdown discussed. J. Hotchkiss read aloud the new increase breakdown. Municipal went up \$0.85, county went down \$0.10, local education went up \$7.00 and state education went down \$0.24. Village district increase was \$0.80 more. Town rate is \$36.16 and Village District is \$36.96. One concerned resident wants to know why the town did not sharpen their budget numbers knowing this was coming. J. Bailey explains that the town portion only increase \$0.85 which is the cost of doing business. The school budget is something this Board has no control over. Resident stated that when the school idea was pitched she was not aware of this huge increase. J. Bailey explained the lawsuit that Middleton won against Farmington which reduced the increase last year is why we are now seeing it this year. The huge increase was supposed to take place the first year but couldn't because according to DRA the school board could not hold onto those funds, they had to be turned back into reducing the rate. Resident questions if next year it will go down. M. Schwarz arrives at meeting at 6:30 PM. J. Bailey answers that he would think not the following year but possibly the year after as the bond payment reduces. Resident is concerned because of the very limited resources there is in Middleton to help pay these costs. Resident wants to know who creates the school budget. She wants to know why they are not going back to sharpening their budget. Resident is under the impression that the school board presents their budget to the Board of Selectmen for approval. She was informed of the correct process that the ones who approve the school budget are the voters at the polls. J. Hotchkiss explains the process and how the budgets are made. J. Hotchkiss

explains that the school has always been a part of our budget we just paid the school portion to another town. A. Bowden explains that the budget was created not knowing the anticipated revenues. Resident wants to know, so we built a school we cannot afford. Janet Hotchkiss spoke about when the voting for the school was taking place no one wanted to hear that we did not have the number of student to warrant an entire school. 71% of the townspeople voted for the new school. J. Bailey talks about not having any industry here to attract people. J. Coskie voices her concerns over residents not attending the meetings and then things like this happen. If you are not informed you have no say. She understands life is busy but unfortunately these things are going to happen and if a resident wants a say in how town government works they must attend meetings. Resident then asked why we are not holding voting in the new school since we are paying for the building. J. Hotchkiss comments that school would have to be canceled if there are going to be a lot of people wandering around the building etc. For safety reasons children should not be in session if voting would be taking place there. The town cannot just cancel school to utilize the location. There are state standards that students need to meet. J. Hotchkiss also mentions that using the school means that it needs to be left in a certain way for school to be held the next day. Example the kitchen needs to be at a certain standard for school, state standard and other group utilizing it may cost funds to hire an employee to make sure those standards are met after each event. Discussion on how next year Kingswood student rates could go down \$600-\$700 dollars. J. Bailey speaks about how the town budget is completed and that there were only 66 voters at the last town meeting to make all the decisions. J. Hotchkiss advised that anyone can attend the 2nd Wednesday of the month meeting with the school board where there is 2 times that public participation is welcomed. R. Mains speak about getting more involved in the town. Join one or more of the boards who end up making these decisions. J. Keegan speaks about how he paid for his children to attend a private school and a good education is worth the money but you totally will get a quality education. J. Hotchkiss explains how the school budget is on a different cycle than the town. Their budget cycle is July 1 through June 30.

New Business

- Piper Mountain residents come to the Board with concerns that one resident is plowing the road and now the road needs repairs and who is going to pay. Elmer Thompson is plowing from Taylors to the top of the hill. No one up there has the money to repair the road. They would just like him to stop plowing. The snowmobile club was grooming the road and would repair it, but is now unable to use the road if plowed. The road was not always plowed, this is new. The individual is trying to get to his livestock and that is the reason he is plowing. Complaint on how does he even have livestock if the home is a seasonal road and you cannot have seasonal livestock? The town owns a lot of town forest in the area. This one resident who is plowing and blocking off the road is now assaulting people as well. M. Schwarz believes the rule is that the landowner can only plow from there lot to the center of the road. Complaints that Bill Polasky is digging ditches on others property and placing gates so this one resident cannot access his property. There should be only one house allowed up on the mountain, so others should not be living full time on the mountain. Talk about the road (Pike Road) that is listed as a road but not listed in Middleton listing. This is where the individual has placed boulders in the road, making it unsafe for others to pass. M. Schwarz will check into regulations on the road being private. A question is who is going to stop him from digging and plowing? These residents just want to go up and spend quality time relaxing and enjoying nature, not dealing with this stuff.
- L. Parker presented a quote for changing the locks on the front and back door. Quote was for approx. \$4000.00. Board wants to look at other options. M. Schwarz will research.

Public Participation

J. Bailey motions to enter into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 II a at 7:24 PM. M. Schwarz seconds, all in favor.

M. Schwarz motions to re-enter public session at 8:10 PM. J. Bailey seconds, all in favor.

M. Schwarz motions to increase Officer Bartlett pay to \$18.00 per hour. J. Bailey seconds, all in favor.

J. Bailey motions to seal the minutes from the non-public for 6 months due to personnel matters. J. Hotchkiss seconds, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Parker, BOS Secretary